

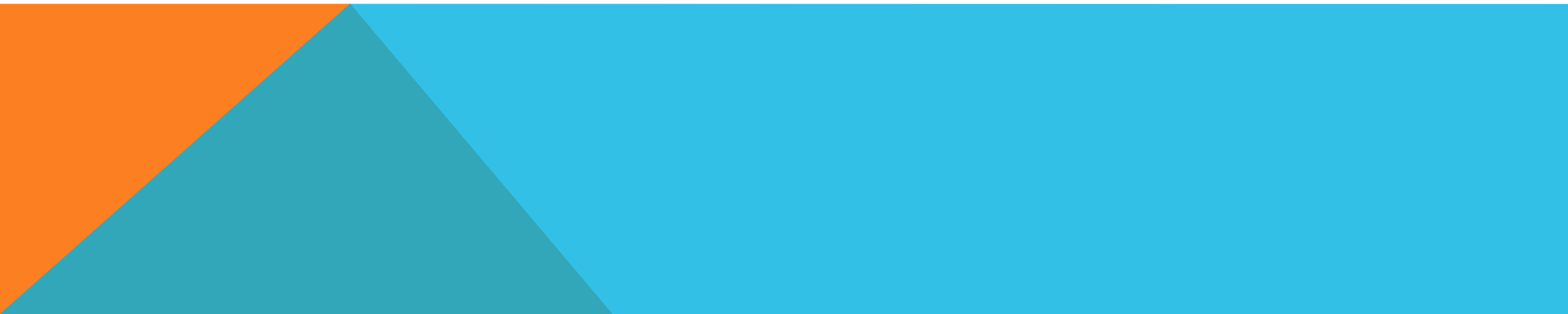
STEPS TOWARD SUCCESS: COLLEGE TRANSITION ISSUES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

PRESENTED BY


BARBARA SAMS, DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE
COUNSELING

SAINT LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL


- I. ENGAGEMENT
- II. ESSENTIALS
- III. EXPECTATIONS
- IV. EVIDENCE
- V. EXPLORATION




I. ENGAGEMENT

- Start early
 - Become familiar with strengths/weaknesses
 - Be an advocate for student and parent; a trusting relationship
 - Be aware of developmental needs – throughout high school
 - Build confidence
 - Determine where student and parent “are at” relative to the disability
- 

II. ESSENTIALS

- Differences between high school/college regarding 504/ADA
 - Documentation needed to access services at college level
 - Update diagnostic evaluation; testing must be ADULT version and within the 18 months before the student goes to college
 - Checklist
 - DSM IV diagnosis
 - Accommodations through IEP/504
 - History of accommodations utilized routinely
 - Parent, student, special education teacher/learning consultant understand diagnosis; agree on what is needed in college
- 

III. EXPECTATIONS

- College “fit” is of utmost importance
 - Ease of communication with professors
 - Support services: depth and breadth, as well as professional expertise
 - Student expectations: must know that he/she has to initiate access
 - Parents’ expectations: after 18, everything goes through student; Student has to sign off on allowing parents access – even to the billing office!
 - Student life: living on campus, particularly if assistance is needed, social involvement, athletics, dietary considerations, etc.
- 

IV. EVIDENCE

-Guidebooks like the K&W Guide are essential although on-line information is the most up to date; must contact actual support service offices to know for sure what is and is not available

-Look for college fairs that focus on profiling services for students with disabilities (e.g. College Opportunity Fair at Churchill School in St. Louis, MO)

-Carefully narrow choices and plan extended campus visits

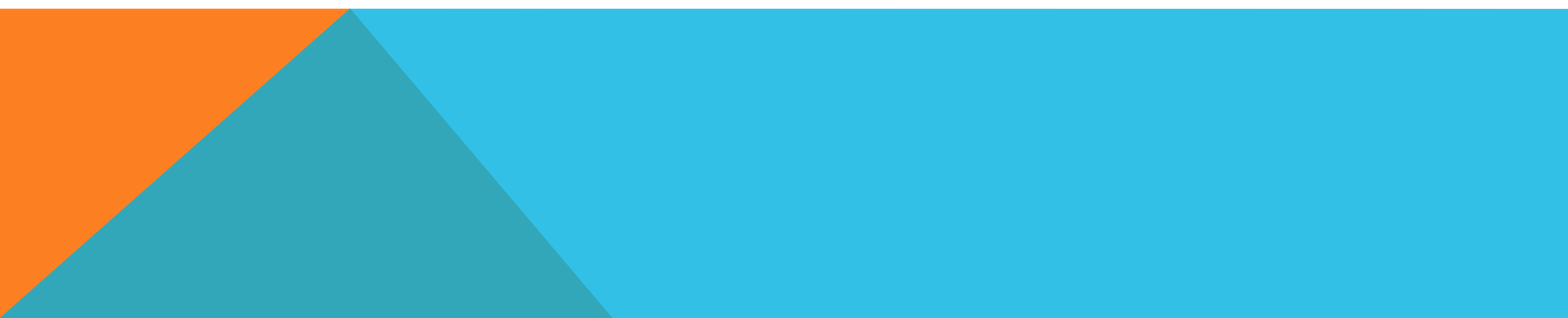
-Support services should focus on the STUDENT

-If possible, talk with other students who are using the support services on campus

-Books focused on transition to college should be consulted (e.g. Survival Guide for College Students with ADHD or LD)

-Self-advocacy is ESSENTIAL!

-Check with vocational rehab regional center or other government programs for eligibility for financial and other support



V. EXPLORATION

- Transition to college is a process
- Getting the student to utilize the necessary resources is the goal
- Thinking proactively is key
- College is all about managing outcomes
- College may take awhile; Being a college student with special needs takes TIME and ENERGY
- Getting results depends on knowing how to deal with frustration
- Consider working with the counseling center on campus as well as the support services



REFERENCES

Axe, Catherine, Fleisher, Trudy and Mitchell, Ben. Supporting the Transition to College For Students With Learning Difficulties. [Online] Available www.nacacnet.org/knowledgecenter, September 24, 2009.

Geary, Jed, Nissenbaum, Linda and Singer, Nancy. Preparing Students with LD and ADHD for College Success. [Online] Available www.nacacnet.org/knowledgecenter, September, 2010.

Goldberg, Renee. The Transition to College for Students with LD and AD/HD: The Educational Consultant's Role. [Online] Available www.IECAonline.com, April/May, 2010.

Johnson, Kendra. Accommodations for College Students with Learning and Other Disabilities: What's Reasonable? [Online] Available www.IECAonline.com, April/May, 2010.

LDA (Learning Disabilities Association). [Online] Available <http://www.ldanatl.org>.

Leuchovius, Deborah. ADA Q & A – The ADA, Section 504 and Postsecondary Education. [Online] Available www.PACER.org, 2003.

McManmon, Ed.D. Michael. Top 10 Areas of Support for Students with Asperger's and LD as They Transition to College. [Online] Available www.IECAonline.com, April/May 2010.

NCLD (National Center for Learning Disabilities). [Online] Available <http://www.nclid.org>.

OCR (Office of Civil Rights). Students with Disabilities, Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities. [Online] Available <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>, September, 2011.

OCR (Office of Civil Rights). Transition of Students With Disabilities to Postsecondary Education: A Guide For High School Educators. [Online] Available <http://www2.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html>, March, 2007.

Varrassi, Vincent. Planning for College Success for Students with Learning Disabilities. [Online] Available <http://www.ncld.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-option>, February 26, 2009.



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

